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FROM : AMEMBASSY CAIRO

1567

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 11, 1955

REF : Embassy despatch no. 1806, March 9, 1953

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEAR EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN
AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS
NEA/PFEB 21 1955
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION

13 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA-4	DEPT. IN F O	CC/R-2 OLI-6 P-1 IES-4
	REC'D 2-18	OTHER O	USIA-10 CIA-7

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING AL AZHAR UNIVERSITY

The following information was volunteered to the drafting officer by Dr. Mohamed El Bahay, Professor of Philosophy at Al Azhar University and a former PL 402 grantee to Princeton's Colloquium on Islamic Culture.

Colonel Anwar Sadat, Minister of State, who is responsible to the Cabinet of Ministers for Al Azhar affairs, confided to his personal friend, Dr. Mohamed Zaki, Professor of Psychology at Al Azhar, that Rector Abdel Rahman Tag has become displeasing to the Revolutionary Command Council and the latter will take steps to remove him in due time. He is considered too narrow-minded, conservative and reactionary and will be replaced by a younger, more progressive man who will be more cooperative with the RCC. For example, the twelve-man team of sheikhs assigned to a confidential mission in the Sudan (EmbDesp.916, November 15, 1954), was cancelled at the last minute by Rector Tag because he had a personal grudge against the leader, Sheikh Mahmoud Kahlifa; Salah Salem could have insisted but he preferred to bide his time.

The RCC has been mindful of conditions at Al Azhar for some time but has been too busy with the Ikhwan to take any action. Now, however, the RCC is free to turn its attention to Al Azhar and plans a complete renovation and reorganization there.

* * *

Preparations for such a renovation, or modernization, have been noted recently: (a) proposed new library for Al Azhar (EmbDesp.981, November 22, 1954); (b) new housing project for students (EmbDesp.1528 February 5, 1955).

Moreover, evidence of unusual interest on the part of the regime in Al Azhar affairs, and perhaps specifically in Al Azhar renovation, seems to have been indicated two days ago, unexpectedly, in connection with the upcoming departure of Sheikh Abdel Rahman El Kholy for an academic year at Princeton (per Emb Wirom 1107, February 4, 1955). As a teacher (of Arabic) since last September in a Ministry of Education secondary school, Sheikh El Kholy in accordance with standard

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procedure applied to the Ministry for a study leave of absence. When his application arrived at the desk of the Minister, Major Kamal El Din Hussein, the latter not only approved the leave of absence but added "with full pay and renewable." Moreover, the Minister summoned El Kholy in person, asked him all about his fellowship at Princeton, congratulated him and his colleague (Sheikh Fahim Shaltout) "for being the first two Azharites to go to America on a mission of very great importance." Then the Minister told El Kholy to present himself before leaving for the United States to Colonel Anwar Sadat and to Premier Abdel Nasser "because these two will be much interested in your mission to America."

* * *

Such strong support, from an unexpected quarter, may well clear away the obstacles encountered by USIS at Al Azhar during the past two years and may result in a green light for certain USIS plans now taking shape. These include: (1) Plans for two more fellowships for Azharites at Princeton or elsewhere for 1955-56. (2) The possibility of two or more scholarships to be offered by A.F.M.E., per upcoming conversations between Dr. El Bahay and Dr. Garland Hopkins and Cultural Affairs Officer. (3) Possibility of one or more scholarships to be offered by Rockefeller Foundation, per recent conversations between the Cultural Affairs Officer and Mr. John Marshall. (4) Possibility of a grant to Dr. Mohamed El Madi, Professor of History at Al Azhar, for one year at Boston University or the University of Minnesota (EmbDesp. 1559, February 11, 1955). (5) Dr. Mohamed El Bahay is accepting a one year's professorship at McGill University, Montreal, (EmbDesp. 1560, February 11, 1955) and will almost assuredly be able to arrange there at least one scholarship per year for an Azharite. (6) USIS will present a large collection of books to the new Al Azhar library at the appropriate time (USIS Cairo OM, February 3, 1955).

For the Charge d'Affaires, a.i.



Burtt F. McKee
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

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FROM : AmEmbassy, Cairo.

1604.

DESP. NO.

TO : State, USIA, Washington, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

February 17, 1955

DATE

REF : EmbDesp. 1806, Mar. 9, 1953;
EmbDesp. 1567, Feb. 11, 1955.

4 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	I N F O	OCIR-2	OLI-6	P-1	IES-4	EUR-5
	REC'D	OTHER						
	NEA-4							
	2-21	CIA-5		USIA-10				

SUBJECT: Al Azhar's Mission in the Modern World.

Herewith enclosed are translated extracts of an article appearing in Akher Saa, February 9, 1955 regarding Al Azhar's role in the modern world.

Particularly noteworthy points are: (1) Account of the official visit to Al Azhar of the cultural attache of the Russian Embassy; (2) Al Azhar's new regulations "regarding mingling with and influencing the masses; (3) Al Azhar's missions abroad; (4) the demand by author of article that Al Azhar authorities not continue in silence about communist attacks against Islam.

For the Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

W.H. Weathersby
W.H. Weathersby
Public Affairs Officer

Enclosure:

Translated extracts of article
appearing in Akher Saa, Feb. 9, 1955.

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FEB 15 1955

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(Translated Extracts of article appearing in Akher Saa, Feb. 9, 1955)

RUSSIA LAUGHS AT AL AZHAR
WHAT HAVE THE SHEIKHS DONE FOR ISLAM & THE CONSPIRACIES AGAINST IT?

What has Al Azhar done for Islam? What have we benefited from the huge funds we annually allot to it? What have Al Azhar Rector and responsible officials done to face the lies Communism and Zionism spread about Islam? What is happening under this huge dome which millions of eyes all over the world look to? What are the secrets hidden behind these historical walls covered with Quran engravings? All Al Azhar responsible officials now tell us : "Do not let us account for the past because we were not free to do what we thought fit and because we could not take one step except according to strict regulations. But we are ready to account for our steps from now on. We started to organize our lines and put every millime in the suitable place. Al Azhar's message begins to appear as it really is.

"The new regulations tell us to mingle among the people and to appear at every time and on every occasion, in order to face the tides of degeneration, corruption, and religious charlatanism. We have been asked to tell people the difference between right and wrong and between vice and virtue. The job of the religious man is not to confine himself to his home and spend his life praying."

Sheikh Mohamed El Teneikhi, Director of Preaching, said: "I now have more than 400 preachers in addition to Mosque Imams and officials. We planned for all these a new policy that they should adopt in preaching to the people and in opening their hearts to religion. However, I still think this number is not sufficient to perform this task in the best manner. Al Azhar has a huge religious army every atom of which we should benefit from. We want to get into every home to inform the wife about her duties towards her husband and children. We want everybody to come to us with his troubles and problems and leave us to find the suitable solution for him. We now seize every opportunity to contact people. We have started going to funerals, weddings, and private parties that we are admitted to attend. We then infiltrate to hearts with a logical simple way. We are spreading now."

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE BUDGET

Sheikh Saleh Sharaf, Al Azhar Secretary says : "... . There are also the thousands of students coming from Malaya, Senegal, Europe, Africa, and the different countries of the world in order to study Islam at Al Azhar ... We are responsible for feeding

and educating

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and educating all these as well as for providing them with shelter and all means of comfort and quietness. There are also hundreds of missions Al Azhar sends to the Sudan, Eritrea, Somaliland, the Philippines, and every where, in order to spread Islam in these forgotten dark places. All this costs a lot of money and requires a huge budget."

HOW DO WE TEACH MOSLEMS

S Sheikh Tawfik El Nahas, Director of Islamic Missions, says: "We do not fight other religions. We do not attack Judaism or Christianity, but we teach Moslems the principles of Islam and tell them that Mohammed ordered us to do good at all times. Missions sent by Al Azhar to primitive areas have the task of introducing the principles of Islam to the people there. We go to them and tell them this is the land and that is the sky, there is an unknown power that controls all the universe, and that power is God. What has happened, however, is that foreign governments fight these missions and prevent them from entering their countries."

"The budget Al Azhar allotted for its missions abroad does not exceed LE. 70,000. We became aware of this grave insufficiency and asked for another LE. 70,000 but we did not receive anything of it yet. There are 160 missionaries spread all over the world, 27 of them are in Northern Sudan, two in Malakal, one in the cultural center in London, one in the cultural center in Washington, 5 in Somaliland, and 8 in Eritrea. There was one in Zanzibar but he came back this year after trouble with the local government. There were discussions between Al Azhar and the Kenya government for the purpose of sending three missionaries there, especially after we received from Mau Mau last year tens of letters asking us to go to them and help them see the light and fight imperialism. We were surprised, however, to find that the British government of Kenya prevents missionaries from entering the country for fear of the white turbans."

THE SECRET OF THE RUSSIAN VISIT TO AL AZHAR

There is a secret that nobody knew till now. A part of that secret was the cultural attache of the Russian embassy.

One day, Al Azhar administration was surprised to find the Russian embassy asking for an appointment for its attache to meet Al Azhar Rector and those responsible for Islamic missions. The delegate of the Russian embassy came at the appointed time and said: "I came for the sake of the millions of Moslems in Caucasia and Siberia. I would like to know what religious assistance could you extend to them. Can you send a religious mission to these areas?"

Sheikh Abdel Rahman Rag

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Sheikh Abdel Rahman Tag, Rector of Al Azhar said: "I have been longing for such an opportunity to help our Moslem brothers in Russia understand their religion. Thus, you will receive before the end of this meeting a list of the names of the missionaries who will leave to Russia on the date you choose."

Everything was immediately prepared and the delegate was handed over a complete project comprehensive of the plans and the capabilities that could be provided by Al Azhar. That was a surprise to the delegate of the Russian embassy who said: "I came merely to ask. You will receive an answer after a week." A week passed, then a second and a third. Al Azhar waited for the reply of the Russian embassy. Contacts were then made and the only answer received was: "The Moscow government has not given permission yet."

Al Azhar officials understood that that was merely a demonstration by Russia as a cover-up for her attitude towards the Moslems she deported to Siberia, especially after the thousands of letters that Al Azhar received, describing their fearful situation.

THE TROUBLES WE FACE

Dr. Mohamed Abul Kheir Zaki, member of Al Azhar's mission to Malaya says: "I know the troubles that face me. You cannot imagine the extent of Al Azhar's influence on the peoples of those countries. We only need money."

Dr. Mohamed El Hussein Hanafi says that the new generation in Al Azhar is ready to do the impossible in order to spread the call of Islam.

Sheikh Tewfiq El Nahas says: "I am ready to prepare a complete program to spread Islam all over the world and by all languages through the overseas broadcasts."

THE POPULATION OF THE TWO POLES

"We are translating the Quran into all languages, thanks to 5000 foreign students, most of whom are citizens of primitive areas who left and came to Al Azhar. We can use them to invade all parts of the world if we want to."

It is worth mentioning that Al Azhar last month received letters from the citizens of the North and South Poles, asking for missionaries to teach them the pillars of Islam as well as the time of prayer. Some astronomers of Al Azhar are now studying this question.

It is not wrong for Al Azhar's Rector to read Communist books that attack Islam in order to answer back. What is wrong is that the Rector remains silent.

MOHAMED WAGDI KANDIL

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : **AmEmbassy, Cairo**

1839
DESP. NO.

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**

March 24, 1955
DATE

REF : **CERP 6/24/54, D-6; Embdesps. 2418 of April 9 and 44 of July 7, 1954; 1573 of Feb. 12, 1955.**

67 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	IN F OTHER
	NEA-4	PM/R-2, A/R-E-P-2, OLI-6*, IO-4*, U/O-P-1
	3/31	CIA-5, USIA-10*, OCB-1

SUBJECT: **INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OPENED.**

There are enclosed six copies of the press story in the Egyptian Gazette of March 22 on the opening, the previous day, of the Institute of Public Administration.

The UN Technical Assistance Administration furnished the foreign experts to organize this institute. A Swedish expert was here for some time early in 1954 and later, Dr. Walter SHARP of Yale University arrived to serve as initial technical director.

Perry Ellis.
First Secretary of Embassy

Approved by:

Robert M. Carr
Robert M. Carr
Counselor for Economic Affairs

Enclosures *att*

As stated above.

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REPORTER

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MAR 28 1955

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Major Hussein opens Institute of Administration

THE Institute of Public Administration, established by the Egyptian Government jointly with the United Nations, was officially inaugurated yesterday by Major Kamal el Din Hussein, Minister of Education, on behalf of Wing Commander Gamal Salem, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mtre. Ahmed Sarwat, Director of the Civil Service Department and Chairman of the Institute's Board, made a speech in which he pointed out that 81 officials selected from various government departments were attending the Institute, and expressed the hope that it would expand and accept more students.

He said: "The Civil Service Department feels proud of having established the Institute of Public Administration, the third of its kind throughout the world and the first in the Arab countries.

"As a matter of fact, all credit for the establishment of this Institute is due to our wise Government, as a result of whose assistance and advice the Civil Service Department has been able to overcome the difficulties standing in its way, and to the United Nations for having supplied us with the necessary book and experts.

"As I have pointed out in my reports to the Egyptian Government there can be no reform in the country unless the Government machine is reformed because this machine is the only weapon of the Government in the battle for reform, which cannot be won with defective weapons.

"There can no doubt that this Institute is a wide step towards reforming the Government machine since its task is threefold: Firstly, to give public servants practical and theoretical training in such a manner as to ensure raising the standard of efficiency of the Government machine. Secondly, to study the existing problems in the administrative machine in Egypt and other countries with a view to finding suitable solutions. Thirdly, to secure the various documents required for training and research, issue bulletins embodying the necessary instructions and exchange information about important developments with other countries.

"If the negotiations now going on with the Ford Foundation prove a success, which it is hoped they will, the Foundation will help us in the establishment of model offices in Cairo and Alexandria at which examples of handling office work will be displayed.

Regional

"It is also to be hoped that, with the Government's help, this Institute will become a regional one from which the Arab countries will benefit.

Mr. Pérez Guerrero, Resident Representative Technical Assistance Bureau of the United Nations, explained in a short speech the mission of such institutes in civilised countries, and their contribution to the organisation of production on a sound basis. He paid tribute to the efforts exerted by the Civil Service Department, and Dr. Ahmed Zaky, Director of the Institute.

Dr. Abdul Monem el Kaissuny, Minister of Finance, who was present, wished the Institute every success.

Addressing trainees, Mr. Sharp, Technical Director to the Institute, stressed the importance of the practical side in the course.

"The Institute will be a research centre for administration problems, and we hope that you will form the core of a professional group of administrators."

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, CAIRO.

1927
DESP. NO.

STATE-USIA, WASHINGTON.

TO : XTECH DEPTARKNOSTXAN STATE WASHINGTONX

REF : EmbDesp 1806, Mar. 9, 1953; EmbDesp 1270, Dec. 30, 1954;
EmbDesp 981, Nov. 22, 1954; EmbDesp 1567, Feb. 11, 1955.

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
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	NEA-4 4/18	RM/R-2 011-6 P-1 IES-4 IO-4 CIA-5 USIA-10 FOA-10

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF
NEAR EASTERN SOUTH ASIAN
AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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SUBJECT: College for Girls at Al Azhar.

In a tradition-shattering decision, the Rector and the Deans of Al Azhar University voted unanimously to establish at Al Azhar a special college for the education of young women.

Regarding the purpose of the new faculty, the Rector said: "Today, the Moslem woman ignores everything pertaining to her religion; this is why she blindly imitates the foreign woman. I am certain that, thanks to this new faculty, we can make of our young women excellent mothers who will know how to work for the development of Islam. Islam cannot accomplish its mission as long as half its society, the women, are paralyzed or ignorant". Another reason "Is that the entire world has decided to work for the renaissance of women. Since this movement may either assist or obstruct woman from her mission, it is the duty of Al Azhar to follow the international currents and to encourage Moslem women to engage themselves in the path that will lead them most rapidly to a glorious life."

Al Azhar authorities are approaching the Ministry of Education to obtain one of the Ministry's school buildings for the new girls' college. A committee has been set up to prepare a curriculum including sewing, embroidery, housekeeping, first aid, etc. It is planned to open the girls' college at the beginning of the next academic year, if at all possible. Further details regarding the new college are found in the enclosed newspaper account.

This decision has particular significance not only because it gives unprecedented official recognition to the potential influence of Moslem women but also because it takes into account contemporary international trends and endeavors to adapt Al Azhar's age-old narrow educational system to meet modern religious, social and economic challenges. Moreover, this decision is in line with Al Azhar's modernizing plans per references.

✓ Enclosure: *MM*
Translation of article of
✓ A1 Ahram, Apr. 3, 1955.

For the Ambassador:

JKKeys/bm.

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W.H. Weathersby
Public Affairs Officer

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(Translation of article appearing in Al Ahram, April 3, 1955)

SPECIAL GIRLS COLLEGE AT AL AZHAR

Students to come from Girls Sections to be
Affiliated to the Religious Institutes.

The Rector of Al Azhar yesterday evening held a meeting at his home which was attended by the eminent leaders of Al Azhar and deans of faculties. Talk was concerned with the role that will be played by the woman and methods of realizing it more fully. Opinion was unanimous after discussion for the necessity of establishing a girls college at Al Azhar whose duty would be: - prepare sound girls, socially and religiously, with all the education necessary for that, viz. home, sports, and social sciences. The girls will have to first graduate from special sections for girls that will be established in all religious institutes.

The Rector spoke for some time at the meeting which lasted a long while, on the importance and necessity of providing the Muslim girl with a greater share of religious and social culture so that she will be well prepared to meet the requirements of life in these days.

The Rector then reviewed certain divorce and family problems that are being faced by the Sharia courts every day. He said that most of them were caused by the fact that the Muslim woman since her childhood has not been fully equipped with the necessary amount of home culture and thus could not fulfill her role in the family as she should. Indeed she began to go lower in her rightful place as an individual, nationally and religiously as well, to become a totally different person, and thus she lost her true personality. There is no doubt that the bringing up of her children, wifely attitudes, and home caring are among the most important duties of the woman. But that is not enough. The woman's role is more serious than that, she is to imprint in the whole home a picture of religious, national and humanitarian characteristics.

The Rector then reviewed the role to be played by the woman and the methods of realizing that completely. When those present had discussed the subject from various aspects, there was unanimous opinion of the necessity of establishing a girls college at Al Azhar with the above mentioned duties.

Until sections affiliated to the religious institutes are ready to supply the proposed college with students, it was seen fit to approach the Ministry of Education and request it to give Al Azhar administration one of the Ministry's schools specialized in this particular field of study. The school in question is located in Al Churia and has about 300 girls registered. It was also advised that the

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that the Rector should speak with the Minister of Education so that if the Minister accepted the proposition, the girls college can start working the coming academic year. One thing that all present agreed upon was that there should be no co-education in the educational system in all its stages.

The Rector assigned a committee of certain professors and persons working in feminist affairs and several Sharia judges to prepare an easy scientific curriculum to include certain women's vocations, such as embroidery, sewing and other home economics. It will also include social subjects as motherhood and nursing, etc.

General Administration for Girls Affairs

Responsible men at Al Azhar are thinking of establishing a general administration for girls affairs affiliated to Al Azhar.

The Rector made an important statement to Al Ahram correspondent on this matter: "Islam cannot fulfill its mission when half its society - the women - are paralysed or ignorant. Any society in which one essential part does not cooperate with the other will never be successful. This fact is known by Al Azhar and others as well but special conditions have kept Al Azhar from fulfilling its natural mission which is to provide culture for Muslim women and teaching them religious affairs. The special circumstances which have kept Al Azhar from realizing this great hope are the same circumstances that have thrown the other half of our community into a strange situation. Some women ignore their religion and believe that it is not good for life. This is due to them being far removed from its source and activities since their early childhood. Others have wasted their time and their lives in blind imitation of the foreign woman, during which she has ignored her religious, national and social position. These women are the victims of distorted orientation created and spread by certain mysterious circumstances in some period of our life. As a result of this continued orientation or this deviation, the Egyptian Muslim woman has lost her balance as an Egyptian or as a Muslim woman, and thus she lost great and many opportunities, beneficial for her livelihood.

"In spite of the octopus that has encircled the Egyptian Muslim woman, she has still exerted efforts to achieve a suitable place in the social and religious life. That is a good effort and has shown that the woman in nature is determined to achieve her rights in life. It is true that the woman may sometime deviate in her steps, but that is only natural and the case is the more with men who meet with life and experience more than the woman. I have high hopes that soon the social world will see women who will give us a true picture of sound mothers who have developed the early life of Islam to the extent of realizing for Muslims in one century, what other civilizations have realized in

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Page 3 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 1927, Apr. 9, 1955
From AmEmbassy, Cairo

in several centuries."

The Rector closed his talk by saying:- "Besides what was mentioned in connection with the reasons for establishing a girls college, there is another strong reason. That is that the whole world is today emancipating the woman to such an extent which may bring her closer or remove her from her true mission. Al Azhar finding itself confronted with these currents is taking the stand that will achieve a noble true life for the Egyptian Muslim Woman."

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XR 511.74 511.743

FROM : AMEMBASSY, CAIRO.

1928

DESP. NO.

TO : STATE, USIA, WASHINGTON.

April 9, 1955

REF : 1) TOUSI DESP 120, Dec. 1, 1953; 3) EmbDesp 1927, Apr. 9, 1955.
2) TOUSI DESP 149, Jan. 21, 1954; 4-955

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA-4	DEPT. RM/R-2 OLI-6 P-1 IES-4 IO-4	PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF NEAR EASTERN SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS NEA/P APR 10 1955 DEPARTMENT OF STATE 04/R
	REC'D 4/18	OTHER CIA-5 USIA-10	

SUBJECT: Foreign Languages at Al Azhar.

A decision has been taken by the Rector and the deans of Al Azhar University to the effect that, starting with the next school year, the English, French and German languages are to be taught at Al Azhar in the secondary grades, as in Egyptian government secondary schools.

This decision resulted from a discussion by Al Azhar authorities regarding the question of sending Azhar students to foreign countries for specialization. The Rector said that the Azharite students sent abroad were not up to the expected standard of efficiency on account of the fact that such students were ignorant of the languages, customs, and prevalent trends of the countries to which they were sent. The Rector pointed out that contacts among nations had in recent years developed so rapidly that the world had become one family. "The teaching of foreign languages", the Rector stated, "is a natural evolution of Al Azhar, although it is a late one".

This decision is in line with a trend towards modernizing on the part of Al Azhar (per 3rd ref.). An interesting side-light is the fact that this whole question was discussed two years ago by the CAO and the former Rector; at that time both the Rector and the Vice-Rector favored the introducing of English into the curriculum, but the project was blocked by the Higher Council of Ulemas (per 1st ref.), whereupon English classes for Azharites were organized at the USIS Library (per 2nd ref.).

For the Ambassador:

W.H. Weathersby
W.H. Weathersby
Public Affairs Officer

APR 14 1955

APR 25 1955

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

874.432/6-355

FROM : AMEMBASSY, CAIRO.

2225

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 3, 1955.

DATE

REF : None.

4 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	NEA-4	RMIR-2 A/REP-2 OLI-6 IO-4 IES-4
	6-9	CIA-5 HEW-5 USA-10 COM-8 FQA-10

SUBJECT: Number of Students in Institutions of Higher Learning in Egypt, 1954-55.

The Embassy has collected figures indicating approximately 75,000 students were enrolled in institutions of higher learning in Egypt during the academic year 1954-55.

The following breakdown is submitted:

University of Alexandria.

Faculty of Arts	1,343
Faculty of Law	1,868
Faculty of Medicine	1,200
Faculty of Medicine-Preparatory	359
Faculty of Science	518
Faculty of Engineering	1,597
Faculty of Agriculture	489
Faculty of Commerce	2,124
	<u>9,498</u>

Cairo University.

Faculty of Arts	3,618
Faculty of Law	4,749
Faculty of Medicine	3,758
Faculty of Commerce	3,783
Faculty of Science	776
Faculty of Engineering	2,429
Dar El Uloum	1,119
Faculty of Agriculture	1,987
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	487
	<u>22,706</u>

Ein Shams University

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Ein Shams University.

Faculty of Medicine	1,869
Faculty of Engineering	2,036
Faculty of Science	661
Faculty of Law	5,350
Faculty of Agriculture	491
Faculty of Arts	1,397
Faculty of Commerce	3,116
Higher Institute of Education for Men	482
Higher Institute of Education for Women	716
	<u>16,118</u>

In addition, there are approximately 6,000 students in various special institutes, such as Men's Teacher Training College, Institute of Fine Arts, Institute of Physical Education, Institute of Music, and Cairo School of Social Work. The American University at Cairo had about 800 students enrolled. At Al Azhar University and its institutes there are 29,000 students.

For the Ambassador:


W. H. Weathersby
Public Affairs Officer

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874.432/2-1356

FROM AMEMBASSY, CAIRO.

870

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 13, 1956

DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA-4	DEPT. RM/R-2 OLIG IE S-5
	REC'D 2/20	OTHER CIA 5 US-A-10

SUBJECT: Plans for the new University of Assiut.

The new University of Assiut is scheduled to open next October, according to an announcement by Dr. Soliman Huzayyin, recently appointed Rector of the proposed University.

Ministry of Education officials have been seeking suitable premises. It has been decided that the University should temporarily occupy the premises of the present Assiut Secondary School. It is planned to set up faculties of Arts, Science, and possibly Law. A teaching staff of approximately 40 is planned and most of these have already been named.

According to one of the newly named instructors, Dr. Y.M. Ezzat, recently returned to Egypt after four years at the University of Maryland, most of the members of the new staff have, at one time or another, studied in America. Whether this is by coincidence or by design is not known. But the new Rector, Dr. Huzayyin, has been a long time Embassy friend, has served for several years on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Educational Foundation for Egypt, as well as on the "Committee on Study and Training in the U.S.", and was a 1952 PL. 402 Foreign Leader grantee. According to Dr. Ezzat, Dr. Huzayyin was made Rector "because the Minister has so much faith in him".

For the Ambassador:

W.H. Weathersby
Public Affairs Officer

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

OCT 15 1956

FROM

AMEMBASSY, Cairo

USOM/E, CAIRO

DESP. NO. 268

October 4, 1956

TOICA A-421, September 28, 1956

67 For Dept. Use Only	ICA-4	DEPT.	BmR-7, Rep-7, OLI-6, U/MSA-1, E-4, P-1 CIA-12, HEW-5, USIA-10
	ICA-10	IN F O	
	10/9		

SUBJECT: The High Institute of Public Health, Alexandria, Egypt

One of the principal activities of the Health and Sanitation Division, USOM/Egypt, during the past two years has been the assistance given to the Government of Egypt in organizing a post-graduate School of Public Health, called the High Institute of Public Health, in Alexandria. Working with a consultant from the School of Public Health of the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Edward S. Rogers, and with one of the leaders in public health of Egypt, Dr. Ahmed M. Kamal (who has been designated Director of the Institute), the staff of the Health and Sanitation Division developed a plan for the organization and equipping of the Institute, a building for which had been provided by GOE. U.S. assistance was to be chiefly of three kinds: First, the furnishing of dollar funds for offshore procurement of necessary equipment, supplies, and teaching materials unobtainable in Egypt (\$100,000 were made available in FY-54, \$5,000 in FY-55, and it was planned to request the additional sum of \$50,000 in FY-57); second, the sending to Alexandria of five professors of various phases of public health to teach for the first two or three years of operation of the Institute and of one U.S. "project leader" to insure close liaison between U.S. and Egyptian staff, to assist in drawing up the curriculum, and to teach some classes; and third, the post-graduate training in the U.S. of some of the Egyptian members of the faculty of the school.

It was originally planned that the school would open in October 1955. There were unavoidable delays in most phases of the organizational work, however, and by Spring of 1955 it became obvious that the opening would have to be postponed for a year.

During the latter months of 1955 the health staff of USOM/E was active in assisting with the plans for remodeling the school building; recruitment of the U.S. professors was begun; lists of necessary supplies and equipment were made up with the help of a specialist in laboratory installations who visited Egypt in January and February, 1956; Dr. Kamal spent three months in the U.S. from October 1955 to January 1956, recruiting U.S. teaching staff, working on equipment and library lists, and planning the curriculum; and an architect specialized in the layout of schools of public health spent three months in Egypt early in 1956 and completed the plans for the remodeling of the building.

By early summer of 1956 GOE had passed a law establishing the High Institute of Public Health and had appointed Dr. Kamal as Director. In July of 1955 GOE had deposited L.E.30,000 in the joint account of the Egyptian-American Joint Committee for Public Health (the organization through which GOE and USOM/E operate their

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joint projects in health) for local expenses in connection with getting the school prepared and staffed. Later GOE deposited an additional L.E. 31,200 (in a separate account in Alexandria for school expenses; and since July 1 of this year GOE has deposited the sum of L.E. 53,000 for operation of the school for the period July 1, 1956 - June 30, 1957. Orders for equipment, supplies, books, etc., obligating over \$90,000 of the \$105,000 available from FY-54 and '55 funds were forwarded to ICA/W by March of 1956.

Recruitment of the six U.S. professors was actively under way by the fall of 1955, but was difficult. However, by June of 1956 Dr. Wilson N. Wing of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health had been appointed "Project Consultant", with approval by GOE and USOM/E, and E. Douglass Burdick, Ph.D., of the University of Pennsylvania, had been named Professor of Biostatistics. Dr. Wing arrived in Cairo on July 24, 1956, leaving his family in the U.S., and Dr. Burdick and his family arrived in Alexandria on August 4, 1956. GOE and Mission concurrence with the appointment of a Professor of Sanitary Chemistry (Mr. Middleton) was sent to ICA/W on June 27, 1956, and similar approval of a Professor of Basic Biology (Dr. Becker) was sent on August 7, 1956.

GOE began the selection of the Egyptian teaching staff early in 1956, and on March 17, 1956, the first meeting of the Higher Council (Board of Regents) of the High Institute took place, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Health, at which time a number of these appointments were approved. (The Director, USOM/E and the Chief, Division of Health and Sanitation, USOM/E, are members of this Council). Since March of this year the Egyptian faculty has been assembling in Alexandria and has been working principally on curriculum, and layout of the classrooms and laboratories. There was a long delay on the part of GOE in letting contracts for the remodeling of the school building; but work finally began during July of this year. Supplies and equipment from firms in the U.S. and from other sources began to arrive in April 1956 and have been continuing in increasing volume until recently.

Although the remodeling of the school building will probably not be completed until December 1956, work has progressed sufficiently so that classes can begin prior to the completion of the remodeling. Accordingly, GOE has made plans to begin teaching the first class by the latter part of October 1956. The student body will consist of doctors, engineers, veterinarians, and others, mostly selected from the personnel of the Ministries of Public Health, Agriculture, Municipal and Rural Affairs, and others, of GOE, and it is planned that the first class will total about 25 students.

From the time of the original planning of the Institute it was realized that special training in the U.S. would be needed in several fields of public health by Egyptian faculty members of the Institute before they would be prepared adequately to discharge their teaching responsibilities. Therefore, as part of the participant program for FY-56 of the Division of Health and Sanitation, USOM/E, six faculty members of the Institute were selected for twelve months each of training in the U.S., in the fields of sanitary engineering, chemistry, biostatistics, maternal and child health, public health library work, health education, and occupational health; and these six individuals left Egypt for the U.S. on the following dates: two on August 12, and one each on September 12, 14, 15, and 16, 1956. Participant grants for two other faculty members of the Institute who are to study teaching methods in the U.S. for six months are still pending.

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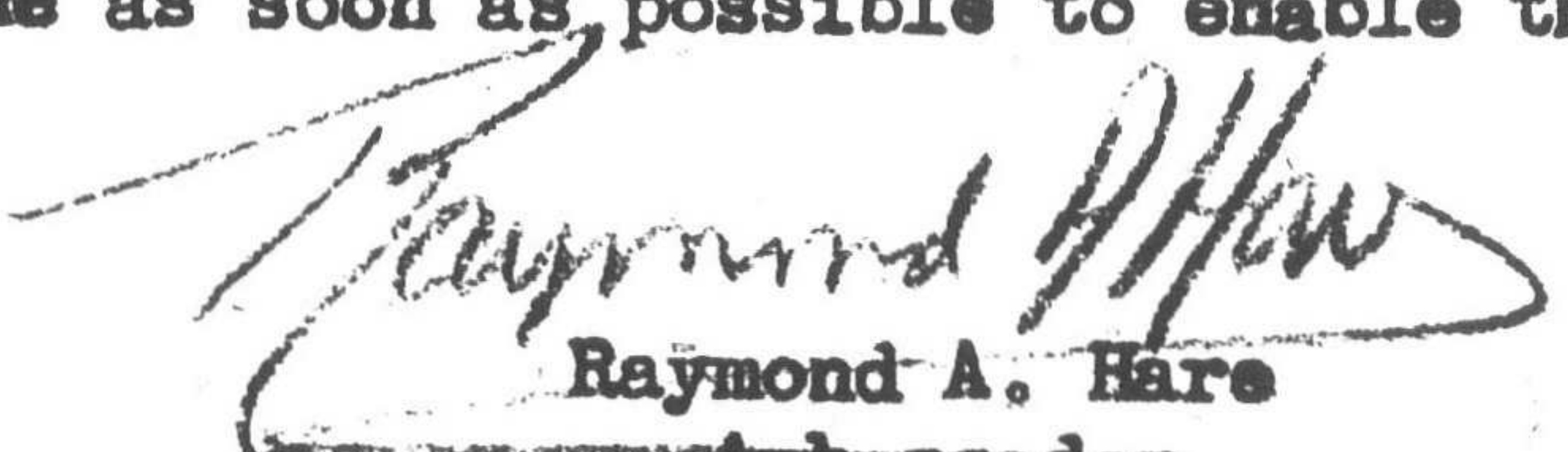
USOM/E has had no information from ICA/W with regard to the status of recruitment of U.S. professors for the Institute in addition to Drs. Wing and Burdick; but unofficially it has been learned that the appointments of Middleton and Becker have been cancelled.

No information has been received with regard to shipments of equipment and supplies ordered for the Institute; but again unofficial information has been obtained to the effect that shipments have been stopped. Apparently less than one-quarter of the items ordered has already arrived in Egypt or is enroute. It should be pointed out that, with few exceptions, items of supplies and equipment which have already arrived or are enroute will be useless unless the entire order is on hand. For example, culture media have arrived, but no test-tubes; and we have received film and slide projectors, but no films or slides for teaching purposes.

The foregoing background information is given so that the Department may be as fully informed as possible with regard to the evolution of the High Institute of Public Health project. If equipment and supplies on order do not arrive in Egypt before the end of December 1956, it will most likely be impossible for the school to continue its teaching. The U.S. project consultant, Dr. Wing, believes that by rearranging the present curriculum it will be possible to conduct classes from the end of October through December 1956 with present staff and equipment; but if additional U.S. staff does not arrive by January 1957, continuation of courses will be very difficult; and if the equipment on order does not arrive, the school will most likely have to close. If that eventuality is probable, it will be better if the school does not open at all.

The Embassy believes that the withdrawal of U.S. support from this school of public health, resulting in its closure or non-opening, will have unfortunate results. Having been launched after long and dedicated efforts by Dr. Kamal and other Egyptian doctors who had banked on our support, a failure now will hit them more than it will hit GOE. Furthermore, if the shipments of equipment have in fact been stopped, and the appointment of the recruited additional U.S. professors has been cancelled, it will be hard to explain why the six Egyptian faculty members of the Institute were allowed to go to the U.S. for 12 months of training each for a school which will be unable to operate. It seems certain that what will suffer will be a very worthy institution promising benefits to the Egyptian people, as well as ties of confidence between Egyptian and American professional men, rather than relations between the GOE and the U.S. Government.

We therefore suggest that the Department and ICA/W urgently review the history of this problem in the light of policy considerations. If it should be decided thereafter to allow the equipment on order to be shipped, it is further suggested that this be done as soon as possible to enable the school to continue to function.


Raymond A. Hare
Ambassador

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PRIORITY

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874.432/10-2256
XR 511.74

FROM : USIS, Cairo

324

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
Joint State-USIA Despatch

October 22, 1956
DATE

REF : None

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF EGYPTIAN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

A very large number of persons turned up for the annual Hamburger Picnic which is traditionally the first event of the new academic year for the Egyptian-American University Fellowship. Optimistic planning was made for 250 persons whereas over 300 attended. Approximately two-thirds were Egyptian, one third American. The program featured introduction of the new American Ambassador, Mr. Raymond A. Hare, and a short talk by an E.A.U.F. member, Dr. Moustapha Khalil, who was appointed Minister of Communications in June, 1956. In addition, the Minister of Supply who is also an E.A.U.F. member attended with his wife.

At this meeting, it is customary to make the major effort for membership. However, this year's response on the one evening exceeded last year's efforts for the entire year. The drive resulted in 30 new Egyptian members, 61 Egyptian renewals, 28 new American members (representing Fulbright, Embassy, USOME personnel and American educators) and 23 American renewals.

At this particular time, it has been most gratifying to note Egyptian support of an organization which stands for the promotion of cultural ties between Egypt and the U.S.

For the Ambassador :

William H. Weathers
Public Affairs Officer

1956 OCT 30 PM 2 58

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy CAIRO

DESP. NO. 924

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

May 28, 1957

REF :

17 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION NEA 4	DEPT. IN F OTHER
	REC'D 6/8	0 Civ 12 USIA 10 OCB-1

SUBJECT: University Students Dismissed for Having Participated in a Political Demonstration

A group of about twenty-five Cairo University students were recently dismissed from the University for having organized a political meeting on the University campus. The meeting, which was held sometime during the third week of April, was called to express student support for the "Jordanian people" in its struggle against the "imperialist agents, reactionaries, and traitors" led by King Hussein.

The first public acknowledgement that a political demonstration had taken place appeared in an article by Ahmed Baha ad Din in Sabah al Kheir, a weekly magazine (Enclosure 1). Baha ad Din reported that the Cairo University authorities were conducting an investigation of the "conference" and that the University guards were confiscating the "University Student" identity cards of those involved. He pointed out that a student who loses his Student card is in effect no longer a member of the University since he cannot even gain access to the university campus. (Soon after the 1952 Revolution, the Revolutionary Command Council moved to control one of the traditional focal points of political unrest, the university student bodies. The "professional students" who were in effect political agitators were barred from attending classes and a series of rigid security measures was taken to control the activities of the remaining students. Barbed wire was strung around the grounds, guards were posted at the entrances, and a blanket prohibition against political demonstrations of any variety was issued.) Baha ad Din protested that the University was being unnecessarily harsh, and put forward the view that holding a meeting to express support for the Jordanian people was not a "crime", pointing out that "The Jordanian people in its present stand is defending Egypt's nationalist policy".

Soon after the publication of the Sabah al Kheir article, the Embassy heard the first of the rumors reporting the demonstration, identifying the participants, and relating what disciplinary action had been taken. Several of these tales included that the entire group of students had been sentenced to two to three years in prison. All proved to be very inaccurate. Subsequently the Embassy was given a copy of a mimeographed leaflet which had been distributed on the Cairo University campus by the "Arab Nationalist Youth" (Enclosure 2). It is not known whether this leaflet was connected directly with the demonstration.

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but with its condemnations of Templer, Glubb, the Eisenhower Plan, and the conspirators who are "working to put the shackles back on the hands of the people who have been liberated", it was clearly written by someone who shared the political attitudes of the demonstrators.

A few days ago, a reporter for Rose al Yusuf, another weekly magazine, when asked "whether it was true the Government had put all those Cairo University students in jail", indicated that the group of students had merely been dismissed from the University; that they had called in a body at the editorial offices of Rose al Yusuf in an effort to enlist the support of the magazine in their attempt to secure reinstatement (they were turned down flat); and that they had appealed all the way up to President Nasser for a reversal of the University decision. According to the Rose al Yusuf reporter, Nasser refused to intercede with the University authorities and declared that the Government had meant business when it outlawed student political demonstrations, and added that the fact that the rally in question had been called to support a viewpoint that the GOE itself favored was immaterial - the principle of no political demonstrations by university students must be kept inviolate.

Comment. The determination to maintain public order and the ability to do so are significant characteristics of the Nasser regime. The decision to enforce the ban on student political demonstrations and to discipline the offenders could have been expected even in ordinary circumstances. At the present time in view of the forthcoming National Assembly elections, scrupulous enforcement of all the regulations concerning public security has become a matter of even greater importance.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Alexander Schnee
Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

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Article by Ahmed Baha Al Din in Sabah al Kheir - 25 April 1957

The Cairo University Administration is now investigating the case of the Egyptian students who held a conference in the University campus in support of the Jordanian people in its present crisis.

It is not satisfied with the usual formalities of investigation i.e. to refer the student to the Disciplinary Council and then await the judgment. But has sent the guards of the University after those students whose names were given by the guards themselves. The guards are trying to take the University cards of the students by force. A student without this card is no longer a student because he cannot even go through the outer door of the University. Names of students who were not present at all at the University on the day when the conference was held were reported to the Administration because of old grudges between them and the University guards.

I do not know how to interpret this action on the part of Cairo University's Administration. What is it objecting to? No doubt it is entitled to object to and investigate the actions of those elements who wanted to exploit the situation to cause disturbances or do harm on purpose. Did any student do this? The least the Administration can do is to explain to public opinion at the University the crime committed by those students so that others may not do the same thing.

I do not believe that the crime is the mere holding of a meeting, delivering speeches and expressing support for the Jordanian people. The Jordanian people in its present stand is defending Egypt's nationalist policy.

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A STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE

Citizens:

At the time when the shouts of the people in Jordan are still echoing in our ears as they were on the day they conquered Templar and put an end to the myth of the Baghdad Pact - the day when they expelled the despotic Glubb, and cracked the domination of Britain - less than a year after this awakening which reaffirmed the will of the people to smash every fetter which obstructs its onward march took place, we see a new power working to put the shackles back on the hands of the people who have been liberated. A power which plots against the will of the Arab people. That will which seeks to materialize a federation between Syria and Jordan in order to resist imperialism and pursue a unified liberated Arab policy based on active neutrality. That will which seeks to make a practical participation in the battle of the Arab nations all over the Arab lands - in Palestine, in the Arab South and in Algeria.

This power which conspires against the Arab people in Jordan is not a stranger. It is the same power which yesterday begged for their confidence and today works to stab them from behind.

Citizens:

Why was the Cabinet in Jordan dismissed? While in office the people repealed the British treaty, reached an agreement to achieve Syro-Jordanian unity and Jordan for the first time in its history adopted a liberated policy working for the interests of the Arab nations.

Why was the Cabinet dismissed at this time in particular? At the time when it was announced that the federation between Jordan and Syria is about to take place - and when Richards was touring the Arab countries with the Eisenhower plan.

The answer is clear and the interpretation is clear.

The question is not one of changing a Cabinet for another or a number of persons for others. It is the question of imperialism which works to regain its domination . . . the question of imperialism and the Jews who work to harden our disunity by preventing the federation of Syria and Jordan thus keeping Jordan weak enough to be swallowed, so that the conspiracies of the Baghdad Pact may be easily carried out, and so that the Eisenhower plan may be easily imposed . . . It is the question of kings and the golden thrones whose owners fear that they will go with the end of disunity and with the realization of the federation. It is the question of personal interests which thrive on disunity and whose beneficiaries fear they will disappear once the Syrian-Jordanian federation takes place.

After all this it is not a conspiracy against Jordan . . . It is a conspiracy against Egypt, Syria and all the Arab nations, and a conspiracy against

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Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

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(Classification)

Page 2 of
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 924
From Cairo

the liberated Arab bloc which is reinforcing the Arab peoples in the battle of unity and liberation, the liberated Arab bloc which stands as a lofty mountain before the Jewish danger, and adopts a policy consistent with active neutrality.

Citizens:

This conspiracy will never be completed and it will be buried by the people who defeated Templar and expelled Glubb. The advocates of disunity and the conspirators will never succeed and the Arab peoples will realize the federation between Syria and Jordan as a first step toward complete Arab unity, complete liberation and avenging ourselves on the Jews.

Long live the unity of Egypt, Syria and Jordan . . Long live the united Arab struggle for Unity, liberation and revenge.

The Arab Nationalist Youth

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: CAIRO

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1957 AUG 22 AM 6 49

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 511, AUGUST 21, 2 PM

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JOINT STATE-USIA.

REFERENCE USITO 324, MAY 29, USITO 192, JULY 23.

EGYPTIAN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP HELD FIRST "OPEN HOUSE" IN NEWLY ACQUIRED PREMISES AUGUST 15 ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS. MINISTER INTERIOR OFFICIALS HAD BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF SCHEDULED AND PRINTED INVITATIONS MAILED ALL MEMBERS. EAUF PRESIDENT MOHAMED KILANI SUMMONED DISTRICT POLICE STATION AUGUST 15 AND ADVISED ASSEMBLY COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. KILANI PRODUCED COPY LETTER TO MINISTER INTERIOR AS ONLY REQUISITE SCHEDULING MEETING AND WAS INFORMED "SINCE INVITATIONS MAILED MEETING COULD PROCEED". ENTRANCE BUILDING EVENING 15 HAD SIX UNIFORMED SECURITY OFFICERS PLUS ADJACENT RADIO CAR TWO ATTENDANTS, ONE UNIFORMED OFFICER WITH NOTE PAD IN ENTRANCE HALL, TWO PLAINCLOTHESMEN AT ENTRANCE APARTMENT WHERE MEETING HELD, ONE UNIFORMED OFFICER AND TWO PLAINCLOTHESMEN SEATED IN BACK ROOM DURING AMBASSADORS VISIT. ELABORATE PRECAUTIONS AND OSTENTATIOUS WRITING IN NOTEBOOKS BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN PROBABLY MEANT INTIMIDATE EGYPTIAN MEMBERS ORGANIZATION.

AUGUST 17 DR KILANI ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE MINISTER INTERIOR TO TERMINATE ALL ACTIVITY OF THE EAUF.

AUGUST 20 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MET WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS PRESENT AS CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. COUNCIL INFORMED OF MINISTER INTERIOR ORDER PUTTING END TO EAUF ACTIVITY. CANCELLED RENT CONTRACT ON PREMISES. DR. KILANI RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF EAUF.

ABRUPTNESS OF MINISTER INTERIOR ACTION COMPLETE SURPRISE

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-2- 511, AUGUST 21, 2 PM FROM CAIRO

THIS MISSION. NOT KNOWN YET WHETHER HIGH LEVEL DECISION
OR OVER ZEALOUSNESS LOWER RANKS. INVESTIGATING URGENT
BASIS AND WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.

HARE

GEV/21

AUG 21 1957

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NEA

November 18 1957

In reply refer to
NEA

Dear Bob:

Reference is made to your letter of September 10, 1957 and to my interim reply of September 19, with regard to a proposed contract with the American University at Cairo for training of Middle Eastern and African nationals.

The Department is most sympathetic with the aims and activities of American universities located abroad, and is desirous of assisting in every appropriate manner in the activities of the American University at Cairo. Consequently the Department would, in principle, favor the conclusion of a contract by ICA with the American University at Cairo of a type similar to the one currently in operation with the American University at Beirut. However, it is understood that it is not practicable under existing circumstances to enter into such a program. A communication on this subject is being addressed to you by ICA.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Robert E. Culbertson,
Vice President,
The American University at Cairo,
C/O International Office,
175 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, New York.

Clearance:

NE/E - Mr. Shaw
NE - Mr. Rockwell

NE - Mr. Stabler
ICA - Mr. Burns

NEA:NE:EFogarty:ma:flt:ma
10/30/57 - 11/8-14/57

8/8-CR
NOV 15 1957 P.M.
of Mr. Shaw.

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CS/T

874.432/9-1057

DRAFT

file

Mr. Robert E. Culbertson, Vice President
The American University at Cairo
c/o International Office
175 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Culbertson:

I wish to thank you for the full exposition of the training facilities of the American University at Cairo, as set forth in your letter of September 10, 1957, and of the opportunities it offers for education and training to students of the Middle East. Your interest in the ICA program is gratifying.

As we favor in principle the aims and activities of American institutions abroad, we have welcomed your interest in a contract between the AUC and ICA. We have carefully considered ways and means by which a contract with your institution could be undertaken outside the framework of the present policy of suspension with regard to ICA programs in Egypt. We regret that our conclusion is that it would not be feasible to undertake such a contract without reactivating the ICA program in Egypt, which under existing circumstances is not advisable. In the event circumstances change, we should be happy to reconsider your proposal.

~~Should you come to Washington at some future date, we should be happy to explain our position to you in some detail.~~

Sincerely yours,

John O. Bell
Regional Director for
Near East and South Asia

Clearance:

WEF Conrad, NE _____
NBurns, O/NESA _____
State SR 52

NEA

PM/

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In reply refer to
NEA

September 19 1957

874.432/9-1057

Dear Bob:

I have received your letter of September 10, 1957 enclosing a copy of a communication to ICA requesting consideration of a contract with the American University at Cairo for the training of Egyptians and other Middle Eastern and African nationals.

The questions raised by the proposed contract will require study by both the Department and ICA. As soon as a decision has been reached with regard to this matter, I shall communicate with you again.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Robert E. Culbertson,
Vice President,
The American University at Cairo,
600 International Office,
175 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, New York.

Clearances: NE/E - Mr. Shaw

NE - Mr. Stabler

NE - Mr. Rockwell

ICA - Mr. Burns (by tel. EF)

NEA:NE/E:Kegarty/ma/tam 9/18/57

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الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

The American University at Cairo

Incorporated 1919 • District of Columbia

113 Sharia Kasr El Aini, Cairo, Egypt

RAYMOND F. McLAIN, President

DOUGLAS HORTON, Cambridge, Mass.
CHAIRMAN

HARRISON GARRETT, Baltimore
RECORDING SECRETARY

T. J. GILLESPIE, Jr., Pittsburgh
TREASURER

International Office:

175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

ROBERT E. CULBERTSON, Vice-President

C. WORTH HOWARD, Educational Secretary

ANNA LISTER, Asst. to the Vice-President

September 10, 1957

Mr. William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary of State
for the Near East, South Asia and Africa
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have just sent to ICA requesting that it give consideration to the negotiating of a contract with the American University at Cairo for scholarship aid, in furtherance of its Asian and African programs. We have proposed to provide facilities at cost for the training both of Egyptians and of other Middle Eastern, Asian, and African nationals.

This is the first official effort we have made to establish with ICA a contractual relationship similar to that held by the American University at Beirut. We have delayed such a request until now because we were advised that diplomatic relations between the US and Egypt were such as to preclude consideration of any new ICA programs affecting Egypt. Cooperation with the American University at Cairo has been deemed as "affecting Egypt" since, although we are a wholly private American institution serving a regional clientele, our physical location is Cairo.

While we have not been pleased thus to be identified more by our Egyptian location than our American character, we have during the past nine months reluctantly awaited developments that would, hopefully, permit of a greater official consensus as to propitious timing. With the passage of the new Foreign Aid bill, however, and with particular respect to the Humphrey-Fulbright amendment thereto, we have decided that the time has come to make our request official.

We understand that the legislative intent of the Humphrey-Fulbright amendment was to make it possible, with counterpart funds to finance appropriate ICA projects, especially scholarship aid, involving specifically such American institutions as the American University at Cairo. We understand also that counterpart funds are available in Egypt and in other countries in the area. While the availability of ICA funds has not previously been the controlling factor, this new legislation would seem to provide a more

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readily convenient budgetary means. Our requirements are, moreover, entirely in terms of Egyptian pounds.

We recognize that the diplomatic situation vis-a-vis Egypt has not noteworthyly changed and assume therefore that the ban on ICA projects in Egypt remains in force. We are, nonetheless, proceeding to seek to negotiate, in the long-held belief that scholarship aid to the American University at Cairo is not inconsistent with current American policies and objectives in Egypt and the Middle East. On the contrary, such cooperation would, in our opinion, further these objectives in that area.

The general policy of withholding technical aid from Egypt is at present perhaps not unsound, particularly in view of the predominantly government-to-government character of that kind of program. This policy is a negative means of furthering basic objectives. It does not necessarily follow, however, that only negative means are at our disposal. At the same time that we withhold aid from an uncooperative government in furtherance of the hope for eventual friendly relations, it does not seem inconsistent positively and actively to foster such relations among the people of that country. Among the major resources that America has for developing friendship in Egypt is the American University at Cairo. It is generally recognized that we have contributed and continue to contribute to the beleaguered body of rational, responsible and friendly citizenship and leadership in Egypt. We could now do much more of this had we available such resources as ICA scholarship aid. Is it not in America's interest, particularly under present circumstances, to promote and to intensify the contribution of this private American institution to the rationalization of Egypt's problems?

It is for these reasons that we have proposed an ICA scholarship program for Egyptians to attend the American University at Cairo.

Entirely aside from the Egyptian question, we have also asked ICA to take cognizance of the regional character of the University and thus its capacity to serve ICA program needs in the general Asian-African region. Almost half of our students come from outside Egypt, both from nearby Arab countries and from South Asia and Africa. To them and to us our location in Cairo is of no significance except as to its relative proximity to their homes. Our relation with them is a bilateral, not a trilateral, one and their milieu while in attendance at the University is that of Jordanians, Pakistanis, Ethiopians, etc. living and studying at an American English-language university whose program is adapted to the development needs of their countries. The theory that it is "unsafe" for these people to study at our University because they would be contaminated through their presence in Cairo has not been borne out by our actual experiences with students from outside Egypt.

The American University at Cairo is a major higher education training resource for the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Would it not be consistent with America's objectives so to utilize it?

We understand, of course, that the program we are proposing is one for consideration by ICA. We have initiated contact there. We are raising the question with you in addition, however, because we know that ICA is dependent on NEA for a prior policy authorization that would permit it to give favorable consideration to our proposal.

We earnestly hope, therefore, both in the interests of the University and of the success of America's international aims, that you will view our request with favor.

We shall appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Robert E. Culbertson

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

The American University at Cairo

Incorporated 1919 • District of Columbia

113 Sharia Kasr El Aini, Cairo, Egypt

RAYMOND F. McLAIN, President

International Office:

175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

ROBERT E. CULBERTSON, Vice-President

C. WORTH HOWARD, Educational Secretary

ANNA LISTER, Asst. to the Vice-President

September 10, 1957

DOUGLAS HORTON, Cambridge, Mass.

CHAIRMAN

HARRISON GARRETT, Baltimore

RECORDING SECRETARY

T. J. GILLESPIE, Jr., Pittsburgh

TREASURER

Mr. John O. Bell
Regional Director for the
Near East and South Asia
International Cooperation Administration
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bell:

It has come to our attention that under the Humphrey-Fulbright Amendment to the new foreign aid bill counterpart funds may now be made available for the support of projects involving American universities abroad. We understand that this legislation contemplates in particular the use of such funds for the financing of scholarships to American universities in the Middle East and Asia.

The purpose of this letter, then, is to request that ICA give favorable consideration, pursuant to this legislation, to the undertaking of negotiations with the American University at Cairo, looking toward the establishment of a contractual relationship providing for ICA scholarships to the American University at Cairo.

We are well aware of the difficulties this proposal may present, from your point of view. We know of the policy ban on new projects in Egypt and have for some nine months refrained from proposing an arrangement with ICA because of it and the situation giving rise to it. We recognize that, lacking an as yet unrealized major change in the status of diplomatic relations with Egypt, the Humphrey-Fulbright Amendment of itself does not appreciably alter the predominant factors involved, except to make available a perhaps more ready and accessible source of funds.

We are, however, proceeding to request consideration at this time, encouraged anew by this new legislation, to endeavor to persuade you of our long-held conviction that a scholarship project with the American University at Cairo, similar to that you have with the American University of Beirut, would contribute to, rather than be inconsistent with current American policy

objectives in Egypt and the Middle East. This we have held and hold to be true not simply in spite of the current Egyptian and Middle Eastern situation, but more properly because of it. We have in fact been restive under the implication that ICA cooperation with AUC would be unwise because it would contribute more to undesirable Egyptian elements than to the realization of American aims in Egypt and the Middle East.

Because we appreciate that the current ban on new projects in Egypt involves political policy over which the Bureau of NEA in the Department of State has primary cognizance, we are simultaneously with this letter addressing to that Bureau a request that the application of current policy in the case of AUC be re-evaluated. We have asked that the program of the American University at Cairo be identified as consistent, rather than inconsistent, with American policies and objectives. A copy of our letter to Mr. Rountree is enclosed.

You will note that the arguments for favorable consideration contained in our letter to Mr. Rountree are essentially in two related but distinct parts.

(1) A scholarship program for Egyptian students would, because of the character of our institution and the nature of its program, contribute to current American objectives in Egypt. It would be a constructive contribution positively sought, in distinction to the present negative approach, but consistent with and effective in promoting basic objectives.

(2) A scholarship program for students from other Middle Eastern, Asian, and African countries would make new use of a major higher education resource available for the furthering of ICA program objectives in these areas. At present almost one-half of our student body comes from countries other than Egypt. AUC attracts students from these countries in the first place because it is a good university. It offers higher education in fields in which they are interested. It provides instruction in English, a common language denominator for students throughout Asia and Africa. This is particularly important for Asian and African students who do not speak Arabic and who therefore prefer a regional English language university. Students throughout that part of the world are attracted to the University also because it is patterned after American higher education yet adapted to the needs of the area. Many students from Asia and Africa come to the University to prepare for graduate study in American domestic universities. These students from the surrounding countries, in particular, look upon our university as an invaluable transition between indigenous secondary schooling and professional and technical graduate study in America.

We are proposing, then, that ICA give consideration to negotiating with the University a program of scholarships for selected students, one group to come from Egypt, and another group to come from other countries in Asia and Africa.

When and if the policy question is resolved favorably, we are prepared to submit a specific quantified proposal indicating the numbers of students we could take in what fields and the unit costs thereof. In the meantime, however, we have thought that you might be interested in the general nature of our program and the facilities we now offer for training under the ICA program. For this purpose, I am enclosing the new 1957-1959 catalogue of the University. We of course do not have as wide a range of offerings as the American University of Beirut. Our University is essentially an Arts and Sciences College plus a School of Education, together with a graduate school with limited but perceptive applicability to unmet higher education needs in the Middle East. I believe, however, that you will find a number of areas of special interest to ICA. Among those that suggest themselves immediately are: Business Administration and Economics; Education and Teacher Training; Journalism; Home Economics; The Sciences; Public Administration. These are all fields in which we are prepared to provide University training of good quality.

Our graduate programs might also be of interest to you although perhaps less with respect to training as such than as to their special possibilities. The Social Research Center is a thoroughgoing professional agency concerned with basic sociological and anthropological studies in the Middle East, staffed by an international group of professional social researchers and concentrating more on fundamental research than on training per se. It undertakes special studies on a contract basis for the purpose of providing data useful in planning and executing the programs of other agencies. Our School of Oriental Studies, on the other hand, has been recognized for some years as an effective center for the orientation of foreign personnel coming to the Middle East, as well as the primary multilingual center in the Middle East for scholarly Oriental studies. It has been used widely by business and church mission organizations. It utilizes tutorial class room and research methods in the conducting of courses, from short term to extended, in the languages, literature, history, etc. of the Middle East.

You will find these programs and others fully described in the catalogue.

We shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Culbertson

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 11, 1957

SUBJECT: Request by American University at Cairo
for TIA Contract.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Robert Culbertson, Vice President,
American University at Cairo.
C - Stuart L. Rockwell
A/E - Adelen Fogarty

COPIES TO: WEA, WE, A/E, TIA(2cc), WTS.

In response to questions by Mr. Rockwell, Mr. Culbertson supplied the following information concerning facilities which the American University at Cairo has available at present for training of students from Egypt and other Near Eastern countries:

(1) The AUC has an engineering, agricultural or medical schools. It believes it could qualify under TIA criteria for training in the fields of education (teacher training), business administration and public administration. Other possibilities mentioned were social research and oriental studies.

(2) In the above fields a contract for training of up to 100 students is envisaged by the AUC.

(3) The AUC is currently training students from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya, Ethiopia and Iraq as well as Egyptian nationals. Non-Egyptians count for almost one-half of the total enrollment.

Mr. Culbertson said that the Egyptian Government had not attempted to interfere in any way with the operations of the American University at Cairo. The AUC is an American corporation and has the same status in Egypt as other foreign firms doing business

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1. The first part of the report is a summary of the work done during the last year. It is a very brief summary, but it gives a good idea of the work done.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed account of the work done during the last year. It is a very detailed account, but it is not as good as the first part. It is a very long and tedious account, and it is not very interesting.

3. The third part of the report is a summary of the work done during the last year. It is a very brief summary, but it gives a good idea of the work done. It is a very long and tedious account, and it is not very interesting.

M. Culbertson

10/1/50

SECRET

December 18 1957

Dear Bob:

I have read your thoughtful letter of December 5, 1957 with much interest and I greatly appreciate the time that you have taken to set forth your views regarding our policy toward Egypt. I can assure you that such comments, written as they are by a person who is so intimately familiar with the situation in the Near East, are extremely useful to me and to my colleagues who must deal with these complicated matters.

I should welcome an opportunity to discuss the matter with you at greater length than an exchange of correspondence will permit. I hope you will let me know the exact dates of your forthcoming Washington stay so that we can work out a mutually agreeable time to have a further discussion of this difficult question.

With all best wishes to Fran and to you in which Suzanne joins me.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Robert E. Culbertson,
Vice President,
The American University at Cairo,
175 Fifth Avenue,
New York 10, New York.

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Mr. Dorman:

I attach a letter from Mr. Culbertson of
AUC as well as a copy of SWR's letter which
prompted it.

It hardly seems desirable to continue this
exchange by mail. If you agree, I propose a
letter for Rountree's signature thanking
Culbertson for his thoughtful consideration of
the matter and suggest the desirability of a
personal exchange when Culbertson gets here.
I do not think we should set forth in writing
any further considerations guiding our policy
toward Egypt.

WS

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through. Some legible fragments include "The...", "for...", "in...", and "the..."

12/11/57

~~LEO~~

NI - For appropriate reply by cob 12/18/57

Ltr to WHA from Robert L. Culbertson, Dec 5, re
Egypt.

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

The American University at Cairo

Incorporated 1919 • District of Columbia

113 Sharia Kasr El Aini, Cairo, Egypt

RAYMOND F. McLAIN, President

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CHAIRMAN

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T. J. GILLESPIE, JR., Pittsburgh

TREASURER

International Office:

175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

December 5, 1957

ROBERT E. CULBERTSON, Vice-President

JOHN H. PROVINSE, Educational Secretary

ANNA LISTER, Asst. to the Vice-President

Mr. William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary of State for the
Near East, South Asia, and Africa
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

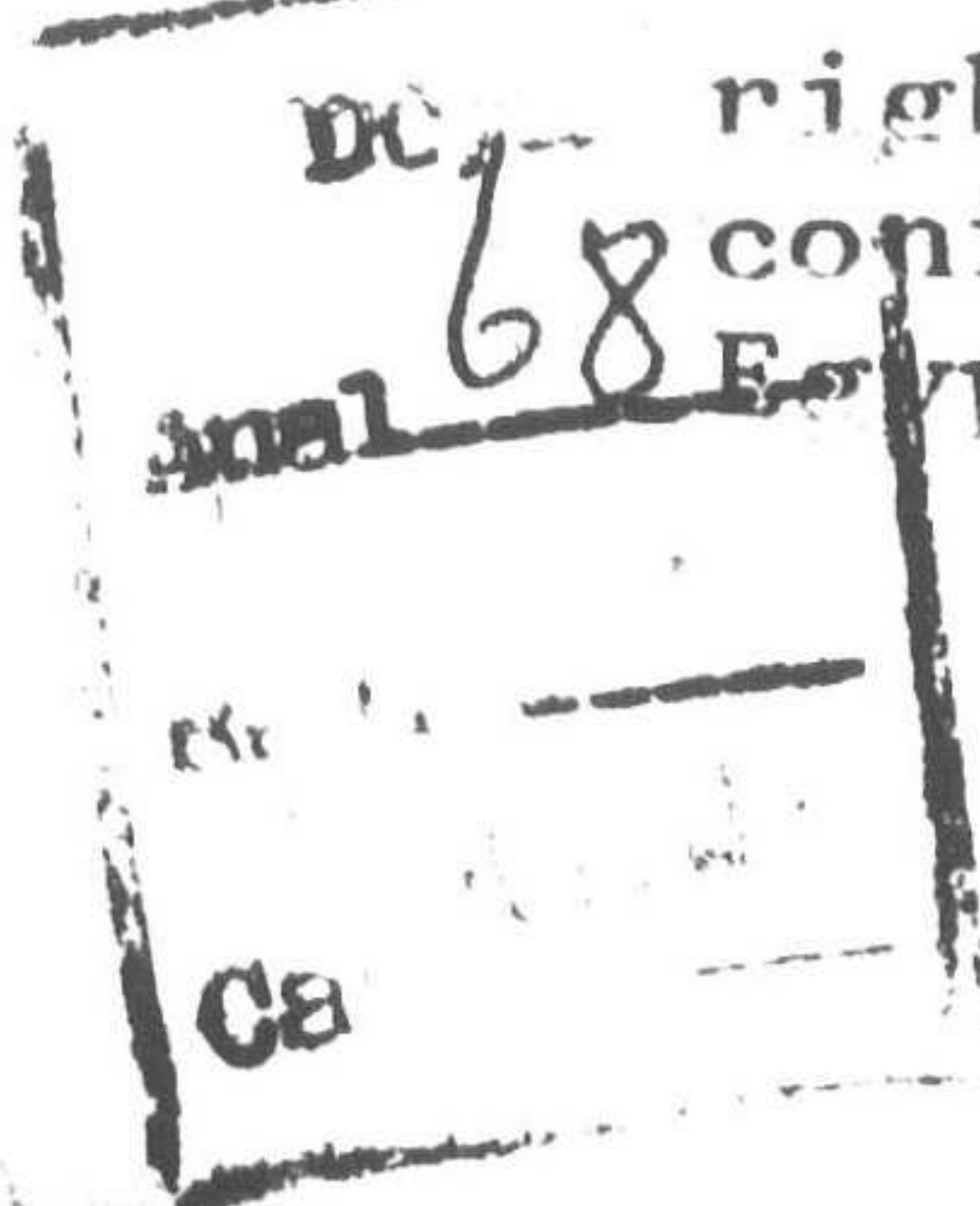
I appreciated your letter of November 18 and particularly the warm expression of sympathy with and support for the program and aims of the American University at Cairo.

In another sense, I also appreciate the difficulties you would face, under present circumstances, in activating a contract with us in the absence of a prior normalization of relations with Egypt.

It is on the latter point that it seems to me comment remains in order. I do not wish to put myself in the position of trying to judge Department policies. I am not qualified to do so. While I know something of the complexity of the factors involved, I also know that I am largely unprepared to reach evaluative conclusions because my information is inferior. On the other hand, there are those of us who have the same aims as you with respect to the Middle East, and perhaps an even larger personal or individual stake in them, who do have enough valid information and understanding to provide a point of view that probably deserves your consideration along with the other factors with which you have to deal.

I have followed the exchange of correspondence between the Department and Dean Horton of Harvard, who has both a personal and familial background of intimacy with Egypt. I regard Mr. Rockwell's presentation to Dr. Horton as a very well-reasoned, effectively stated exposition, provided one is thinking in strictly American (or perhaps Western) terms. It makes compelling sense to most products of our own culture. The positions stated, however, seem to me to be somewhat short of the imaginativeness and sensitivity that are required to deal effectively with Egypt.

We seem to be judging Egypt on the basis of our own concepts of right and wrong, good and bad. We appear to be waiting for Egypt to conform to these concepts. Specifically, we seem to be waiting for Egypt to cease collaborating with Russia; to cease propagandizing



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against Middle Eastern governments friendly to us; and to make a friendly overture to us. I think the chances are that on this basis we shall wait in vain.

Would it not be well to inquire into the real reasons as to why Egypt acts as she does? I have the feeling that we have been jumping to assumptions that appear to explain why but actually don't.

Egypt's pro-Russian actions are not at the same time, basically, anti-American. We may regard them as such, but Egypt does not. Much of it, in Egyptian eyes, has been forced on them by what they sincerely regard as dire necessity, and only after, in their belief, they have failed to get the help they desired from us. There is no question that Egypt does not understand the danger of dealing with Russia. She really doesn't. Even so it has only been reluctantly that Egypt has sought Soviet aid when they felt they had no other recourse. We may disagree, but Egypt believes it has been doing only what it could not avoid doing for the sake of Egypt. The net result has been a kind of bitterness against us, but this does not spell positive anti-Americanism. It is reactional disappointment, and nique on a grand scale. But being such, it is much more readily dissinatable than positive anti-Americanism would be. It seems to us that, while we are quite right in undertaking to persuade Egypt that collaboration with Russia is dangerous, it is defeating our own purpose at the same time to punish Egypt whilst she still has not yet seen the light. We may not call what we are doing punishment, but this is how Egypt regards it, and is this not the test?

The Department appears to have identified anti-American and current pro-Russian propaganda, stemming from Egypt's nique with us, as evidence that her claimed neutrality is false, since she says she is neutral but does not act that way. This, it seems to many of us, is a superficial analysis. More nearly, as we see it, such propaganda is a use of the Arab's traditional way of getting what they want. In this case, what he wants is for us to change our minds. Of great importance is his desire for us to say nice things -- this is almost as important as doing nice things and often a very useful substitute, as the Russians have found. When we don't do so on our own initiative, the Arab's recourse is to that very fundamental Arab technique of making charges with the object of having them denied. We, of course, don't react well to this. We are more mature. But I wonder if we really understand the extent to which this explains Arab propaganda, and thus that our natural reaction to it, understandable and correct when dealing with equals, does not provide a sound basis for action on our part, if we wish to get what we want in the Middle East.

In this sense, and by their own standards, the Egyptians are making overtures to us. You cannot expect them, aggrieved as they feel and with their psychoses, to make an unqualified friendly gesture. I am convinced that they want our friendship and that they are seeking it in their own way. We appear to be seeking it in ours. The twain do not meet. I would hope, under these circumstances, that we would not count on Egypt's coming around to our way. This would, of

course, be desirable -- it would solve many of our problems, but I suspect that it is at least several generations too early to predict such an eventuality with any confidence. We still have the greater responsibility for understanding and for compassion and, practically, ours is the only opportunity to break the impasse. We can be counted on to be the more intelligent and understanding, and skillful in seeking our objectives.

Thus I do not believe that America can afford to wait for the Egyptians to change. They are waiting too, and I am inclined to believe they can, or will anyway, outwait us, meanwhile slipping, however inadvertently, inevitably and fully into the arms of Russia.

We do not believe that what the Department could do need be either precipitous or awkwardly generous. We are thinking, at this time, primarily of removing certain of the existing major points of issue where Egypt regards herself as being punished. I need not enumerate these, though I would like to hazard the prediction that unblocking Egypt's dollar accounts now, in addition to being a gesture that would contribute significantly to a reversal of her present course, would also help to bring about an earlier settlement of the Company stockholders' problem than current policy will. It seems to us that it is possible to go too far in being technically sound and traditional when the stakes for our nation as a whole are as high as they are today in the Middle East.

Mr. Rockwell's second major point was that the softening of our attitude toward Egypt would be regarded by "friendly" Middle Eastern countries as an undercutting of them. Many of us seriously doubt this and, moreover, regard the effort to keep these countries in separate camps as both doomed to failure, and dangerous for America, because it is likely ultimately to be fatal to our interests in the area. Mr. Rockwell's point seems to be based, at least in part, on the fallacious theory that a Middle Eastern country's being pro- or anti-Egyptian is synonymous with its being anti- or pro-American, that there is a cause and effect relationship. This oversimplifies matters dangerously.

It would be hard to prove that any Arab country is basically anti-Egyptian. Certain current administrations, of course, have grievances against the current Egyptian administration. But here we are getting into domestic Arab politics as well as international, and it is not necessarily pro-Americanism that explains such grievances against Egypt. While it is clear that certain Arab governments' problems with Egypt are tinged with their respective attitudes toward America and the dichotomy is heightened thereby, much more basic intra-Arab issues fundamentally are at stake, having little to do, directly, with us. We cannot for long hope to divide the Arab world between allegiance to us and to Egypt. In the long run Egypt will win hands down. This is a game we cannot afford to play.

They are already quite mixed up and confused and we only add to the confusion by attempting to get them to take sides, with ours being one of them. If it were a clear-cut East-West issue, the analysis would be quite different. But it is not.

We would think, also, that it is important not to give undue regard to the administration that happens now to be in power in each country.

Should we not also consider the basic political posture of the country, and consider this in relation both to intra-Arab and to international relations? The opposition and likely successors to a pro-Western government currently in power are not necessarily anti-American. They may or may not be anti-Egyptian. In Lebanon, for example, the strong pro-Egyptian opposition is that, not because it is also anti-Western but for quite different, local reasons. Do we wish to force the pro-Egyptian elements in Lebanon also to be anti-American? If we do and they come to power, we will have defeated ourselves. My information is that they are very likely to come to power soon, and under the aegis of a new Christian President who is pro-Egyptian and, as yet, pro-American. This element certainly would not object to our being less harsh with Egypt. Nor, I believe, would even the administration in office, since it, too, is sensitive to Lebanon's basic political posture and cannot long stand with us against Egypt.

This is a practical matter, too, since with the possible exception of Iraq (and even it is shaky) the currently and officially pro-American regimes must be regarded as short-timers, and must be expected to be replaced by regimes which at best will be more cautious in embracing us, and could readily be made to reject us if we persist in making a reality of the myth that pro-Egyptian Arabs are, by definition, anti-American.

With the possible exception of Iraq, then, my point is that the present Arab governments, let alone the countries as political entities, would welcome a rapprochement between Egypt and the United States. It would remove a major source of embarrassment to them and the fear of an ultimate tragic choice. It would take some of the heat off Hussein -- not all of it, but that part of it occasioned by Egypt's current ability to use us as a club. The economic and social reform elements in Jordan are bound to continue to attack the monarchy and probably with Egypt's continued help, but the bases for this are internal and the outcome inevitable. Our hope and effort ought to be in the direction of preventing the change being one to Communism. In any case, Hussein as such can't last long and I would hope that we are, therefore, looking to Jordan's future as well as enjoying its present friendliness.

Rapprochement with Egypt would also help Sami Bey Solh and Charles Malik to remain in office. It would improve Camille Chamoun's chances of re-election, although Maronite Hamid Frangieh, his leading opponent, should be a satisfactory replacement if he is not further alienated from the West by being labeled anti-Western because he is pro-Egyptian.

I am sure you understand that, in these comments, I am not speaking on behalf of Egypt. I am speaking on behalf of the United States. I do not defend Egypt's derelictions, nor her blindnesses nor excesses.

We live as close to them as you and their effects are probably more immediately vital to the institution we represent than to yours. We are interested, as you are, in a resolution of the problems favorable to American interests. My comments have been made with this aim in mind, and based on my belief that America should react to Egypt's shortcomings, not in anger nor in cool and reserved final judgment, but with understanding and with a determination to seek ways effectively to influence her in our favor.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Robert E. Culbertson

Bill: I have so much to tell you, but I know of the presumption in our friendship, though I don't really regard it as that. In my own mind I have only presumed to think you might be interested in a point of view, which while undoubtedly spurred by personal experience & interest, might be worth considering.

You may be interested to know that whatever moves I may have in Egypt are no longer affected by a business connection with it. I'm going back to the Ford Foundation in Feb. 1, & then to Pakistan as Deputy Director of an expanded Foundation program there.

Fran & I hope to get to Washington before we leave around Feb 15). As you know Fran has not yet been able to come down, but her mother is now with us for the duration of our stay in Summit, & it looks as though she may at last be able to get away. If so we shall look forward to seeing you & Suzanne. With our warmest regards to you Suzanne & Susan,

Sincerely,
Bob

11/14
In reply, refer to

Dear Mr. Norton:

The Secretary has asked me to acknowledge your thoughtful letter of November 8, 1957 concerning United States-Egyptian relations. We are most appreciative of your courtesy in writing to us. It is particularly valuable to receive appraisals of difficult problems from people such as yourself, who have given close thought to these problems and who approach them from a background of wide experience and knowledge.

I fully agree that we should not "descend into the market place to bargain and debate" with the Egyptians. I assure you that our approach to the problem of our relationship with Egypt is not based upon petty points at issue between the two countries, nor upon questions of "face", but upon broader factors. We should be most happy to see a basis established for improved relations with Egypt, and consistently have made this point clear to President Nasser and other Egyptian officials.

There are two principal elements which have stood in the way of the establishment of harmonious relations between Egypt and the United States. One is the Egyptian Government's attitude toward the Soviet Union and international Communism. From our broader experience with Communism, we believe the Egyptians are badly mistaken in apparently thinking that the Soviet Union and Communism do not present a threat to the security of Egypt and the Near East, and that they can with impunity establish close relations with the Soviets. We believe that Egypt has placed herself and the entire Middle East in jeopardy through her close association with the Soviet Union, and that she has thereby helped to open the door to Communist penetration of the area. The fact that Egypt does not show a greater awareness of this fact makes it difficult for this country to have a satisfactory relationship with Egypt.

This having been said, I want to make it clear that we of course recognize the right of a nation to establish a policy based upon neutrality, and we enjoy good relations with several neutral nations which have chosen not to align themselves openly with either side in the East-West struggle. We do believe that if a nation declares it

has

Mr. Douglas Horton,
Harvard Divinity School,
Office of the Dean,

45 Francis Avenue,
Cambridge 38, Mass.

has adopted a policy of neutrality, it should in fact be neutral. Egyptian actions and propaganda over the past several years have benefited and continue to benefit international Communism, and in this sense Egypt is not adhering to real neutrality.

This brings me to the second basic problem which stands in the way of better relations with Egypt. This is that while it professes to be neutral, the present Egyptian regime has constantly engaged in efforts to undermine states in the Middle East which do not choose to accept Egypt's political philosophy. The fact that these states are friends of the United States adds to the difficulty. The present violent Egyptian press and radio campaign against Jordan, including open incitement of the Jordanian people to assassinate their king, is an example in point. I think that you will agree that in the circumstances, when Egypt is taking action, by propaganda and subversion, to interfere in the affairs of her neighbors and to undermine their independence and sovereignty because these nations prefer not to follow Egypt's lead in foreign affairs, an American policy of collaboration with Egypt would deal a heavy blow to the states attacked by Egypt, who have chosen to associate themselves with the West and with the United States. A policy of collaboration would not only profoundly discourage these states, but it would also seem to indicate that the United States approves of Egypt's attitude toward the Soviet Union and international Communism.

The above facts, I think, reveal that our policy toward Egypt is not a petty "tit for tat" one. Basic matters of great importance are involved, and the repercussions in the rest of the Near East of whatever steps we may take with regard to Egypt must be given the most careful consideration.

We sincerely hope that matters will develop so that we can have a more constructive relationship with Egypt. We do not believe, however, that unilateral acts on our part without commensurate decisions on the part of Egypt can establish such a basis for this. Lately, we have noticed encouraging signs that perhaps the Egyptian Government considers it has moved too far in the direction of the East. Should these signs be translated into reality, an appreciable alteration of the situation will have occurred.

Meanwhile, with regard to the specific points you made, I can assure you that as soon as an agreement is reached between Egypt and the Suez Canal Company regarding the problems outstanding between them, we will release the blocked Egyptian funds which we have been holding to protect American citizens' shipping through the Suez Canal, who are now exposed to the risk of law suits by the Canal Company for having paid tolls to the Egyptian Canal authority. We regard the invitation of the Egyptian Government to Mr. Eugene Black, President of the World Bank, to go to Cairo to discuss the matter of compensating the Canal Company to be an encouraging development. We hope that further progress will be made in this matter.

With regard to medicines and wheat, Egypt possesses great funds in this country and there are absolutely no restrictions on use of them to buy these commodities. There has, as you know, been a great deal of propaganda creating the impression that such restrictions do exist, but this is without foundation. As I mentioned previously, the release of the blocked funds would depend on an agreement being reached between the Egyptian Government and the Suez Canal Company.

With regard to the resumption of the foreign aid program, this is not likely at the moment, principally because there does not now exist an adequate basis for cooperative relations between Egypt and the United States which would make this type of collaboration practicable. Our endeavoring prematurely and without an adequate foundation to engage in this kind of program would also be misinterpreted in the Near East and our action could be expected to indicate to many that the United States was signifying its approval of Egyptian policies.

As for private American philanthropic organizations engaging in activities in Egypt and with the Egyptian Government, we have not discouraged these. It is true, of course, that for the reasons set forth above we have not felt that it would be appropriate to provide official United States assistance to the Egyptian Government by making surplus commodities available on a large scale to private organizations for distribution in Egypt. However, we have placed no obstacle in the way of activities in Egypt which private organizations may wish to undertake with their own resources.

May I assure you that it was a real pleasure to receive your letter and to discuss this important matter with you. I hope that I have been able to facilitate your understanding of our position with regard to Egypt. In conclusion, I want you to know that we have no prejudice against the improvement of relations with Egypt. We would like nothing better than to see a basis exist for such improvement. We believe, however, that Egypt as well as the United States must contribute to providing the atmosphere which would facilitate this.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart W. Rockwell
Director,
Office of Near Eastern Affairs

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December 23, 1957

ROBERT E. CULBERTSON, Vice-President

JOHN H. PROVINSE, Educational Secretary

ANNA LISTER, Asst. to the Vice-President

Mr. William M. Rountree
Assistant Secretary of State for the
Near East, South Asia, and Africa
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

I am planning to come to Washington for January 8, 9 and 10, although I could extend the visit a day at either end if it would be more convenient for you. I have only one set appointment and that is for Friday evening from six on. At any other time during the week I am at your disposal.

If none of these dates are convenient, I am sure you know that I would be glad to come down at any time (except January 13-18) up to our sailing February 14, so please suit your convenience, Bill, not mine. I would like very much to see you and talk with you, both about the matters on which we have corresponded and because I would not wish to leave for what appear to be indefinite years without having seen you.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert E. Culbertson

874.432/12-2357

CS/BL

874.432/12-2357

JAN 30 1959

FILED

